

## CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

tuning a receiver of a broadband signal to a channel within the broadband signal to  
5 receive information including one or more cable modem operating parameters; and

updating one or more operating parameters of the cable modem in accordance with the  
received information.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the channel is a narrow-band channel within the  
70 broadband signal.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the channel is a pilot channel.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein tuning a receiver to a channel comprises:

accessing a storage medium for a list of information channels within the broadband  
75 signal;

selecting a channel from the list to which the receiver is tuned; and

demodulating the channel to recover system information.

20 5. A method according to claim 4, wherein demodulating the channel comprises:

modifying receiver parameters to demodulate the channel according to a modulation  
technique that differs from that of the broadband signal; and

reading information contained within the demodulated signal to update one or more  
operating characteristics of the cable modem.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the information includes an indication of a data channel.

7. A method according to claim 4, further comprising:

5 selecting a next channel from the list of information channels if system information is not contained within a demodulated representation of the channel; and

repeating the modifying, reading and selecting steps until cable modem operating information is identified.

8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising:

updating the list of channels to promote the channel in which system information was found to the first channel in the list.

9. A method according to claim 7, further comprising:

restoring receiver demodulation parameters to demodulate the broadband signal in accordance with a modulation technique associated with the broadband signal.

10. A machine accessible storage medium comprising a plurality of executable instructions which, when executed by an accessing machine, cause the machine to implement a method  
20 according to claim 1.

11. A computing system comprising:

a storage medium including a plurality of executable instructions; and

a control unit, coupled to the storage medium, to execute at least a subset of the plurality  
25 of executable instructions to implement a data channel detection agent, wherein the data channel

detection agent tunes a broadband receiver of a broadband signal to a channel within the signal to receive information including one or more cable modem operating parameters, and to update one or more cable modem operating parameters in accordance with the received information.

12. A computing system according to claim 11, wherein the data channel detection agent accesses a storage medium for a list of information channels within the broadband signal, and selects one of the channels within which to find system information.

13. A computing system according to claim 11, wherein the data channel detection agent modifies a demodulator of the broadband receiver to demodulate the channel according to a modulation technique that differs from the modulation technique associated with the broadband signal to recover information contained within the channel.

14. A computing system according to claim 13, wherein the channel detection agent steps to a next channel in the list if the demodulated channel does not include system operating information.

15. A computing system according to claim 14, wherein the channel detection agent updates the list to promote the channel in which the cable modem operating parameters were found to a first channel in the list.

16. A computing system according to claim 14, wherein the channel detection agent updates one or more operating characteristics of a cable modem in accordance with information recovered from the channel.

17. A computing system according to claim 14, wherein the channel detection agent restores demodulator settings once the cable modem operating parameters are established.

18. A computing system according to claim 11, wherein the computing system is a cable modem.

19. A machine accessible storage medium comprising a plurality of executable instructions which, when executed by an accessing machine, cause the machine to implement a channel detection agent to tune a broadband receiver of a broadband signal to a channel within the signal to receive information including one or more cable modem operating parameters, and to update one or more cable modem operating parameters in accordance with the received information.

20. A machine accessible storage medium according to claim 19, wherein the instructions to implement the data channel detection agent include instructions to access a storage medium for a list of information channels within the broadband signal, and to select one of the channels within which to search for system information.

21. A machine accessible storage medium according to claim 19, wherein the instructions to implement the data channel detection agent include instructions to modify a demodulator of the broadband receiver to demodulate the channel according to a modulation technique that differs from the modulation technique associated with the broadband signal to recover information contained within the channel.

22. A machine accessible storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the instructions to implement the channel detection agent include instructions to step the receiver to a next channel in the list if the demodulated channel does not include system operating information.

23. A machine accessible storage medium according to claim 21, wherein the instructions to implement the channel detection agent includes instructions to update one or more operating characteristics of a cable modem in accordance with information recovered from the channel.

24. A machine accessible storage medium according to claim 23, wherein the instructions to update one or more operating characteristics of the cable modem include instructions to restore the receiver to demodulate the identified channel in accordance with a modulation technique associated with the broadband signal.